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cause is to be found in the elasticity of the plate, making it slightly irregular on grinding.—*Walter Hough*, U. S. National Museum.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—Ensign A. P. Niblack, U. S. N., has just returned to Washington from a three years' voyage to southern Alaska, where he was engaged on Coast Survey duty, in the steamer Carlisle P. Patterson. Lieut. Niblack is an enthusiastic archæologist and has done good service to that science as the records of the Smithsonian Institution will abundantly show.

He pushes his researches among natives whenever and wherever his duties permit. He returns loaded with ethnologic material, which he will now have the opportunity to classify and describe. He has perfected himself in photography, and returns with full series of Indian villages, houses, totems, burial posts and glaciers, which, jutting into the sea and breaking off, are caught in the act of transforming themselves into icebergs. Lieut. Niblack's interest and studies have been directed to the Totem posts with which that country is so prolific. He says that winter is the only season when studies can be successfully made in the ethnology of Alaska.

The natives are then at their homes prepared to give or receive pleasure or information. In the summer they are engaged sometimes far inland on the mountains and inaccessible.

Mr. E. A. Douglas, of New York, has returned to the United States after two years' absence in Europe.

Mr. Douglas possesses one of the finest private Ethnographic collections in the United States. It was stored for safe keeping during his absence at the New York Museum, Central Park.

Mr. Douglas has now gone to Florida, where he will continue his studies until his return in May. His address is Saint Augustine.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—The Middlesex Institute proposes to publish a Flora of Middlesex County (Mass.), giving a complete list of the Phanerogams and Vascular Cryptogams. In the lower Cryptogams, lists prepared by specialists will be given, as complete as the present state of knowledge permits. The work is based upon botanical researches for many years by members of the Institute, with this publication in view; supplemented by a careful examination of all works bearing upon the subject, and all public and private collections accessible. No plants have been admitted to the list except on evidence of the actual specimen or of competent botanists; and all doubtful questions with regard to identification have been referred to eminent specialists. The publication will be an octavo volume of more than 200 pages.

—The project of a Marine Biological Laboratory on the New England Coast is not languishing. Several thousand dollars have already been subscribed towards the erection of the necessary building and its equipment and maintainance. The committee on the laboratory have arranged a course of eight lectures, the proceeds of which are to be added to the fund. These lectures are as follows :

Jan. 18.—Professor W. H. Niles, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology—"Mountain Sculpture." Jan. 25.—Major J. W. Powell, Director of the United States Geological Survey—"Savagery, Barbarism and Civilization." Feb. 1.—Professor H. N. Martin, of the Johns Hopkins University—"A Hen's Egg." Feb. 8.—Professor George L. Goodale, of Harvard College—"Seeds." Feb. 16.—Professor F. W. Putnam, Director of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, at Cambridge—"The Serpent Mound and the Ancient People of the Ohio Valley." Feb. 22.—Professor Alpheus Hyatt, Curator of the Boston Society of Natural History—"A practical Example of the Evidence for Evolution." Feb. 29.—Doctor Henry P. Bowditch, Dean of the Harvard Medical School—(Subject to be announced.) March 7.—Professor Edward S. Morse, Director of the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem—"Reptilian Affinities of Mammals." The lectures will be illustrated by the stereopticon and the tickets for the course are placed at \$5.00.

—In the spring ground will be broken for another section of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass. It will be a continuation of the present west wing, and will be used to accommodate the growing needs of the botanical department. It will contain laboratories for the study of both cryptogamic and phænogamic botany. There will also be rooms for the exhibition of the collections already accumulated, for which there is no adequate accommodation. The fund for building has already been raised, through the exertions of Prof. J. M. Goodale. A collection of superb glass models, representing the principle species of flowering plants, is now being made in Germany, especially for this exhibit. When this addition is completed and the collections arranged, it will be surpassed by few in the world. The Museum has long outgrown its exclusively zoological character and has for many years contained the geological collections and some of the botanical laboratories have had accommodations in it for some time.

—Volume I, No. 1, of the *American Journal of Psychology*, G. Stanley Hall, Ph.D., editor, has appeared. It contains 206 pages, octavo, and numerous plates and cuts. 127 pages are devoted to original papers, and 79 pages to reviews and digests of recent psychological literature and to psychological notes. One of the most prominent objects of the journal will be to record the progress in

the study of hypnotism, especially in France. The first number contains the most extended and critical review yet published of the whole work of the English Society for Psychical Research. Single numbers, \$1.00. Subscription to yearly volume of four numbers, \$3.00. Remittances may be addressed to the *American Journal of Psychology*, Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A.

—Prof. E. W. Claypole, of Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio, is the author of "The Lake Age in Ohio; or, some Episodes during the Retreat of the North American Ice-sheet;" with colored maps. McLachlan & Stewart, Edinburgh; Simpkin & Co., London.

—In compliance with what seems to be a wide-spread desire on the part of the geologists of America, a few have united in an effort to establish an American journal devoted to geology and its allied sciences. The new publication will be called *American Geologist*, and it will endeavor to promote American geology by fostering the interests of American geologists.

The subscription price is \$3.00 per year, and the place of issue for the present is Minneapolis, Minn., where correspondence should be addressed to *The American Geologist*. From all geologists the editors solicit original contributions, and items of scientific news.

The editors and publishers, for the year beginning January 1, 1888, are as follows: Prof. S. Calvin, Iowa City, Iowa; Prof. E. W. Claypole, Akron, Ohio; Dr. Persifer Frazer, Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. L. E. Hicks, Lincoln, Neb.; Mr. E. O. Ulrich, Newport, Ky.; Dr. A. Winchell, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Prof. N. H. Winchell, Minneapolis, Minn.

—The second number of Dr. Whitman's *Journal of Morphology* will contain the following articles: Dr. C. O. Whitman—"The Kinetic Phenomena of the Egg during Maturation and Fecundation (Oökinesis);" Dr. W. B. Scott—"The Embryology of Petromyzon;" Dr. Henry Orr—"A Contribution to the Embryology of the Lizard;" Dr. H. F. Osborn—"The Fœtal Membranes of the Marsupials;" George W. and Elizabeth G. Peckham—"Some Observations on the Mental Powers of Spiders." The number will be illustrated by ten lithographic plates.

—The Teachers' School of Science, which the Boston Society of Natural History is enabled to conduct by the aid of the Lowell Institute, will be continued this year. Professor Wm. M. Davis will give five lessons on the Physical Geography of the United States. The different parts of the country will be considered, not in the order of location, but in their natural order: (1) The mountains, as constituting the framework of the continent; (2) The plains and

plateaux flanking the mountains; (3) The rivers carrying the waste of the land into the ocean; (4) The lakes, temporarily interrupting the transportation of waste to the ocean and retarding the action of the rivers; (5) The shore-line where the land dips under the sea.

—Professor von Cienkowski, the well-known student of the lower animals, died October 7th, 1887, in Leipzig. He was born October 13th, 1822, in Warsaw, and at various times held a professor's chair in Jaroslaw, St. Petersburg, and Odessa. At the time of his death he was a member of the faculty of Charcow.

—RECENT DEATHS.—Robert Francis Logan, an entomologist, at Spylaw, near Edinburg, July 28, 1887.—Pierre Millière, entomologist, aged seventy-four, at Cannes, May 29, 1887.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.—May 24, 1887.—Dr. Chapman presented "Notes on the Anatomy of *Echidna hystrix*."

May 31, 1887.—Dr. Leidy described *Asplanchna ebbesbornii*, a rotifer, originally described by Hudson from specimens obtained in Wiltshire, England. Dr. Leidy's specimens were from a duck-pond, sewage fed, below this city. The animal is viviparous and swarms in the pond in company with *Daphnia*. It has a single eye and a pair of lateral conical horns.

June 14, 1887.—Prof. H. F. Osborn presented a paper upon the "Structure and Classification of Mesozoic Mammalia, and C. H. Eigenmann "Notes on the Specific Names of Certain North American Fishes."

June 21, 1887.—Mr. Thos. Meehan stated that *Chionanthus*, though usually described as having perfect flowers, is on the borders of dioecism, having impotent anthers with a perfect pistil on one plant, and polliniferous anthers and an imperfect pistil on another. This is the rule. The male plants are the more abundant. The male flowers seem only to be visited by the pollen-eating Thrips, and are therefore anemophilous.

August 9, 1887.—A letter from Miss A. Fielde, Swatow, China, describing an aquatic larva and its case, was read. The animal is stated to be near *Hydropsyche*.

August 16, 1887.—Prof. J. A. Ryder presented a paper upon the "Homologies and Early History of the Limbs of Vertebrates."

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.—The annual meeting (1887) was held at New Haven, Conn., in the Lecture-Room of the